

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 064896

62

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 CCO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY S/CCT:LHOFFACKER:GLG

APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY

ARA - J. B. KUBISCH (DRAFT)

RA/MEX - C. P. TORREY

S/S - WHLUERS

----- 042429

O 012044Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 064896

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:PINR, ASEC, MX

SUBJECT: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING: POLICY STATEMENTS

REF: MEXICO 2709

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ALERTING DEPARTMENT TO POSSIBILITY OF NEGATIVE ECHO OR MISINTERPRETATION OF U.S. POLICY IN PRESENT CASE OR IN RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM IN GENERAL. YOU MAY THEREFORE DRAW ON FOLLOWING RATIONALE TO COUNTER SUCH ARGUMENTATION OR POSSIBILITIES. IT IS NOT REPEAT NOT SUGGESTED THAT YOU ISSUE STATEMENT(S) ALONG THESE LINES. INDEED, IT WOULD APPEAR TO US TO BE INADVISABLE IN THE PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. YOU MAY WISH TO USE THE FOLLOWING, IF NECESSARY, IN DEALING WITH GOM PRESS, AS WELL AS INTERNALLY WITH YOUR STAFFS, IN EXPLAINING APPROACH WHICH USG TAKES IN THE PATTERSON AND SIMILAR CASES OF KIDNAPPING OF US OFFICIALS ABROAD:

2. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL NOT PAY RANSOM AND WILL NOT SUBMIT TO INTERNATIONAL BLACKMAIL. WE SHOULD MAKE KNOWN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 064896

TO OTHER PARTIES (GOVERNMENTS, COMPANIES, AND INDIVIDUALS),

AS APPROPRIATE, THAT THAT IS OUR POLICY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THAT YIELDING TO SUCH DEMANDS ENCOURAGES FURTHER TERRORISM RATHER THAN DETERS IT.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE ASSERTION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS A "NO NEGOTIATION" POLICY, THE FACT IS THAT THE USG'S LEGAL WRIT DOES NOT EXTEND TO OTHER COUNTRIES, WHERE HOST GOVERNMENTS, BY INTERNATIONAL LEGAL TRADITION, REMAIN FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING U.S. OFFICIALS AND SECURING THEIR SAFE RELEASE. IN INSTANCES SUCH AS THE PATTERSON CASE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT AND WILL OFFER APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE AND COUNSEL. HOWEVER, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL NOT NEGOTIATE IN PLACE OF THAT GOVERNMENT, WHICH RIGHTFULLY MAKES DECISIONS IN SUCH CASES WITHIN ITS SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY.

4. DURING THE KHARTOUM INCIDENT OF MARCH 1973 IN WHICH TWO OF OUR OFFICERS WERE MURDERED, THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY REGARDING THE MISSION OF DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY MACOMBER TO THE SCENE OF THE ATROCITY: "I WANT TO STRESS THAT HIS PURPOSE IN MAKING THIS TRIP IS QUITE LIMITED. HE IS GOING TO OBSERVE THE SITUATION, BUT HE IS NOT GOING TO SERVE AS A NEGOTIATOR WITH THE TERRORISTS. HE WILL OBVIOUSLY LEND SOME ASSISTANCE OF A HIGH-LEVEL NATURE TO THE PERSONNEL WHO STAFF OUR EMBASSY IN THESE DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES AND ALSO OBVIOUSLY WILL BE OF SUCH ASSISTANCE AS HE PROPERLY CAN TO THE SUDANESE GOVERNMENT AS THEY PROCEED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS."

5. THE WISHES AND RIGHTS OF THE HOSTAGE'S FAMILY WILL, OF COURSE, BE RESPECTED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE FAMILY AND WILL SERVE AS A FRIENDLY INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE FAMILY AND THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

6. THE SAFE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGE REMAINS A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ABOVE STATED POLICY AND PARAMETERS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 064896

7. WHILE THE USG BELIEVES FIRMLY THAT CRIMINALS WHO ATTACK INNOCENT INDIVIDUALS LIKE OUR OFFICIALS ABROAD SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO APPROPRIATE JUSTICE, IT IS SIMPLISTIC, IF NOT INACCURATE, TO DESCRIBE U.S. POLICY AS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF "NO NEGOTIATION" OR "HARD LINE." THE USG SEEKS TO DETER OR DISCOURAGE POTENTIAL TERRORISTS BY COUNTER-MEASURES WITHIN THE LAW. SHOULD THEY (THE TERRORISTS)

STRIKE, WE EMPLOY ALL APPROPRIATE MEANS TO RESCUE THE
HOSTAGE(S) AND TO APPREHEND THE TERRORISTS, WHO SHOULD BE
MADE TO PAY FOR THEIR CRIME WITHIN A SUITABLE JURISDICTION
AND A FAIR JUDICIAL SYSTEM. RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRESS COMMENTS, ADVERTISING, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, EXTORTION, POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE064896
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LHOFFACKER:GLG
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740072-0309
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740477/aaaacsna.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: MEXICO 2709
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PATTERSON KIDNAPPING: POLICY STATEMENTS
TAGS: PINR, ASEC, MX, (PATTERSON, JOHN)
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005